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The Emblem of the Red Cross

A brief history

III

by F. Bugnion

CHAPTER II

The Emblem of Red Cross Societies

1. National Society Recognition

From the outset, the central committees of the Societies for Relief to Military Wounded developed the habit of corresponding, either direct or through the International Committee. Was not the originality of the institution precisely that community of interests which united National Societies irrespective of frontiers?

Most of the founders of the earliest relief societies had taken part in the 1863 Geneva Conference which initiated the Red Cross movement. They knew each other personally and naturally kept in touch.

But the momentum of the work soon carried it beyond the circle of the States from which the participants to the 1863 Conference came. New Societies were formed in the Balkan States, in Asia and the New World.

These new Societies did not intend to remain on the sidelines of the movement; they wanted contacts with the older Societies and wished to participate in the effort of international solidarity which was beginning to crystallize around the emblem of the red cross. Naturally, they addressed themselves to the ICRC, asking to be put into touch with fellow Societies.

The ICRC became in this way the organization to notify existing Societies of new ones, the notification serving as an introduction of the new to the older Societies, so that in countries affected by war or natural disaster the Societies had a correspondent to whom they could send relief. New Societies acquired the right to participate in Red Cross international events (conferences, exhibitions, publications, and so forth).

The ICRC notified existing Societies of the constitution of others in the Ottoman Empire (1868), Montenegro (1876), Serbia (1876), Rumania (1876), Greece (1877), Peru (1880), Argentina (1881), Hungary (1882), Bulgaria (1885), Portugal (1887) and Japan (1887).

But the very success of the movement seemed likely to moderate its principles, and it was therefore felt necessary to ensure that the new Societies' objectives and bye-laws were in keeping with the movement's essential aims. It fell to the ICRC, the founder of the movement and the guarantor of its basic principles, to carry out this verification. As a result, before issuing a notification of a new Society's constitution, the International Committee was impelled to check the basis of the Society's foundation and to verify that the new Society's bye-laws and aims were consistent with the movement's fundamental principles. In fact several Societies spontaneously consulted the ICRC as to the best way in which to organize themselves.

Notification of the constitution of new Societies thus became, to all intents and purposes, a form of accreditation combined with official recognition.

At the outset the ICRC undertook this enquiry on its own initiative. However, the fourth International Red Cross Conference at Karlsruhe in 1887 considered it necessary to sanction what had become established custom by assigning to the International Committee

*the notification of the constitution of new National Societies after checking the bases on which they were founded.*¹

This mandate gave considerable discretion to the ICRC which deemed it expedient to specify the scope thereof by laying down twelve qualifying conditions for recognition which, in its opinion, expressed the movement's essential principles.² Three of those conditions are worthy of special consideration, namely the conditions that a National Society had to:

- (a) belong to a country where the Geneva Convention was in force;
- (b) be named "Red Cross Society";
- (c) adopt the sign of the red cross on a white ground.

¹ Fourth International Conference of Red Cross Societies, Karlsruhe, 1887, *Compte rendu*, p. 90.

² *Organisation générale et Programme de la Croix-Rouge*, second edition, Geneva, 1898, pp. 25-26. These conditions for recognition were reproduced in subsequent editions of *Manuel de la Croix-Rouge internationale*, until 1942.

These three conditions show the interdependence between the recognition of a National Society and the application of the Geneva Convention. This link is essential since, in the first place, National Societies are auxiliaries to the military medical services, which are protected by the Geneva Convention. These conditions stipulate also the name and emblem of the National Societies.

But these conditions were a body of rules decreed by the ICRC itself. It therefore considered itself authorized to exercise a certain amount of discretion in their interpretation³ and in 1924, deferring to the decision of the 1906 and 1907 Conferences to admit the use of the red crescent and the red lion and sun, it recognized the Egyptian Red Crescent and the Persian Red Lion and Sun.⁴

This empirical approach lasted until the Second World War. The occupation of most of Europe by the armies of the Axis Powers created a real politico-juridical imbroglio: the central committees of some National Societies took refuge abroad so that the directing bodies continued to exist outside their national territories while the sections which

³ In the 7th and 8th editions of *Manuel de la Croix-Rouge internationale*, the conditions for recognition were followed by an explanatory note reading:

These principles, which today are the expression of a tradition, were formulated by the International Committee following the Karlsruhe Conference in 1887 which—confirming a custom which was even then well established—directed the International Committee to notify existing National Societies of the founding of new societies after verifying the bases on which they had been constituted.

Most of these principles have been implicitly confirmed by subsequent International Conference resolutions and have been reproduced unchanged in successive editions of the Manuel.

However, the International Committee of the Red Cross, in view particularly of the complexity of the international legal status of various entities, is obliged to interpret these principles flexibly, taking into account the circumstances peculiar to each case.

See *Manuel de la Croix-Rouge internationale*, Geneva, ICRC, Paris, League of Red Cross Societies, 7th ed., 1938, pp. 249 and 250, 8th ed., 1942, pp. 255-256.

⁴ In our opinion it cannot be said that the ICRC recognized the Ottoman Society for Relief to Military Wounded and Sick in 1877 in spite of the fact that that Society was displaying the red crescent. It had notified National Societies of that Society's constitution in 1868; in 1877 it announced the reconstitution of that Society, at the same time expressing reservations on the emblem of the red crescent. The 1877 circular, therefore, was simply a notification, not recognition. There are two reasons for saying this:

- (a) in 1877 the ICRC had apparently not been vested with competence to recognize new Societies;
- (b) if it is argued nevertheless that recognition had been granted, then it must be admitted that it dated from 1868 when the Ottoman Society was first founded—but at that time the Ottoman Society had laid no claim to any right to use the red crescent.

remained behind in the conquered countries were dissolved by the occupation forces which instituted new societies subservient to them.

Under those circumstances, the ICRC decided to cease granting recognition until conditions had returned to normal.⁵ After the war, the International Committee conveyed this decision to the Preliminary Conference of National Red Cross Societies which was held in Geneva from 26 July to 3 August 1946. The Conference approved but asked that new rules, more definite and more appropriate to the circumstances, be adopted.⁶

The new conditions for recognition were drawn up by the joint ICRC-League Commission and approved by the seventeenth International Red Cross Conference at Stockholm in August 1948.

The conditions relevant to our subject are:

The applicant Society shall:

- (1) *Be constituted on the territory of an independent State where the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick is in force;*
- (5) *Use the title and emblem of the Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) in conformity with the Geneva Convention.⁷*

In substance, these conditions do not differ from the three conditions previously quoted. The link between National Society recognition and the application of the Geneva Convention was maintained and new Societies had to use one of the three recognized emblems and the corresponding name.

On the other hand, the status of these rules had changed appreciably: having been approved by the supreme deliberative body of the International Red Cross they were binding on the ICRC which no longer had the same latitude in their interpretation and application.

⁵ The ICRC notified the Central Committees of National Red Cross Societies of this decision in its circular No. 365 of 17 September 1941.

⁶ See: *Report on the Work of the Preliminary Conference of National Red Cross Societies for the study of the Conventions and of various Problems relative to the Red Cross*, Geneva, ICRC, 1947, pp. 133-136.

⁷ Seventeenth International Red Cross Conference, Stockholm, August 1948, *Report*, pp. 77-78 and 89-90; *International Red Cross Handbook*, pp. 332-333.

Consequently, the ICRC is not empowered to recognize a National Society which does not use one of the three emblems mentioned in the Convention.

Moreover, it is probable that if one of the existing Societies decided to change its emblem for one not mentioned in the Convention the ICRC would be obliged to withdraw recognition, which would entail the Society's exclusion from the International Red Cross. Fortunately such a case has not arisen.

Nevertheless, in the course of the years, several attempts have been made to introduce new emblems. Some gave rise to thorough discussion, while others went no further than the stage of tentative approaches. We give below such details as we have been able to trace.⁸

2. Unrecognized emblems

The purpose of the brief notes which follow is simply to indicate the unrecognized emblems that have been proposed or used.

*Afghanistan*⁹

In 1934 the ICRC contacted the Afghan authorities with a view to the founding of an Afghan National Society.

Arrangements proceeded so well that in December 1935 the Afghan Government, through its Minister in London, applied for recognition of the National Society which had adopted the name and emblem of the Red Archway (*Mehrab-e-Ahmar*).

The ICRC could not take this new emblem into account. On the basis of an extensive interpretation of article 19 of the 1929 Convention, the ICRC proposed that the new Society adopt the name and emblem of the Red Crescent.

In a note dated 21 February 1936, the Afghan Minister rejected this, saying:

⁸ ICRC records do not keep information on the emblem in a separate file. We had therefore to peruse correspondence exchanged with (or concerning) several National Societies. As research was empirical, the findings should not be considered as exhaustive.

⁹ Source: ICRC records, file No. CR 00/2.

*In respect of the name of the Society, as it is impossible to adopt the Red Cross for an emblem of the above-mentioned Afghan Society, in the like manner, I do not see, how Afghanistan can accept the symbols of the Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun, which are not religious signs, but definitely national emblems of other countries.*¹⁰

On 23 July 1936, the Afghan Government confirmed the position stated by its Minister in London. Nevertheless, in 1938, the Afghan Society took the name “Red Crescent Society of Afghanistan”: it was recognized on 2 September 1954. Its emblem is a crescent with the points pointing upwards.

This example illustrates the ambivalence which some symbols induce: in 1936 Afghanistan rejected the sign of the red crescent as the national emblem of a foreign country, whereas in 1949 the Afghan delegates emphasized how the population of their country was attached to that emblem for religious reasons.

*Cyprus*¹¹

A section of the British Red Cross was founded in Cyprus in 1950.

In the expectation of the island’s independence, the British Red Cross took steps to convert its Cyprus branch into a National Society. One of the first difficulties encountered was the name and emblem of the new Society.

The British Red Cross proposed the name “Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of Cyprus”; the emblem would then have consisted of a combination of two recognized signs.

The ICRC refusal was tactful but positive. It objected mainly from fear of sanctioning the introduction of a new emblem.

Incidentally, more recently, two associations entitled the “Red Cross Society of Kurdistan” and the “Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of Eritrea” have proposed an emblem comprising the two recognized signs. However, neither association can claim to belong to a recognized State, so that the question of their recognition cannot be taken into consideration.

¹⁰ Original English.

¹¹ Sources: ICRC records, files 122 (35), 122 (70), and 122 (140).

India ¹²

The Indian Red Cross Society was formed just after the First World War and was recognized in 1929. It therefore had a tradition dating back to long before the end of the colonial period.

Nevertheless, after independence, some government circles and some leaders of the National Society desired to eliminate all signs of British domination and replace them by symbols indigenous to India. They proposed substituting the symbol of the red wheel on a white ground for the red cross.

The proposal gave rise to some discussion but was soon abandoned.

Israel ¹³

The 1949 Diplomatic Conference had refused to recognize the red shield of David as the fourth protective sign for the medical services of the armed forces.

But a relief society displaying that emblem had been in existence in Palestine since 1930. On 1 June 1952 the Society of the Red Shield of David (*Magen David Adom*) applied for recognition.

The fifth condition for recognition as approved by the Seventeenth International Conference ¹⁴ not having been complied with, the ICRC was compelled to refuse to recognize the Israeli relief society, which it advised accordingly by letter on 25 June 1952. This is the reason why the Society of the Red Shield of David has not become a member of the International Red Cross.

Since that time the matter has been discussed at regular intervals by the ICRC, the Israeli Government and the Society of the Red Shield of David with a view to regularizing the Society's position. However, no satisfactory solution has yet been found.

These legal difficulties have not prevented the ICRC and the Society of the Red Shield of David from maintaining close working relations, particularly for the provision of assistance to the victims of the recent conflicts in the Middle East.

¹² Source: ICRC records, file No. CR 00/67 II and 043.

¹³ Source: ICRC records, file No. 122 (171).

¹⁴ See p. 286 above.

*Japan*¹⁵

In 1877 a benevolent society named *Hakuaisha* was founded in Japan. Its objectives were identical with those of the National Red Cross Societies.

The Society's emblem was a sun above a red strip (or, to put it in another way, the horizontal branch of the red cross beneath a sun) on a white flag.

In 1886 Japan acceded to the Geneva Convention and the same year the *Hakuaisha* Society adopted the name and emblem of the Red Cross.

The Japanese Red Cross Society was recognized in 1887.

Lebanon

The Lebanese Red Cross was founded immediately after the Second World War and was recognized on 30 January 1947.

It developed rapidly. Nevertheless, its work was hampered when trouble broke out between Christians and Moslems. It seems there was then some question of adopting the sign of a red cedar tree on a white ground, the cedar being the national symbol which might have rallied the various religious communities. However, this proposal did not go beyond preliminary discussions and we found no written record of it in the archives.

*Sudan*¹⁶

Two budding National Societies were formed in the Sudan during the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium: a local branch of the British Red Cross and a section of the Red Crescent sponsored by the Egyptian Red Crescent Society.

After independence the question of merging these two sections into a single National Society arose, with the attendant question of what emblem the new Society should adopt. A red rhinoceros and other suggestions were made but not adopted. Finally the Society chose the red crescent.

¹⁵ Sources: — ICRC records, file Japanese Red Cross Society 1885-1914 (without reference number);

— A communication from Mr. Gerhard Dumke, Dr. Jur., Landesgerichtsrat, Oberhausen, dated 20 March 1951 in ICRC records, file No. 043.

¹⁶ Source: ICRC records, file No. 121 (179).

The Red Crescent Society of Sudan was recognized on 1 November 1957.

*Sri Lanka*¹⁷

The Red Cross of Ceylon was founded on 1 April 1949, succeeding the local branch of the British Red Cross.

It was recognized on 6 March 1952. However, while other relief societies developed rapidly after the island's independence, the Red Cross of Ceylon encountered difficulties which its leaders attributed to the fact that the population associated the sign of the red cross with the British occupation and Christianity. They therefore sought to replace the red cross with a symbol more appropriate to the local religion and customs.

In 1957 the swastika, a symbol common to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism for more than a thousand years, was suggested. For obvious reasons the proposal was not followed up.

In 1965 there was a suggestion to integrate all assistance organizations in the National Society, which would then have adopted as its emblem a red lion brandishing a glaive (this emblem, displayed on the national flag, was already being used by the *Shramadana* which was concerned with rural development). The ICRC and the League objected to the introduction of a new protective sign and after some correspondence the Red Cross of Ceylon did not pursue the matter.

*Syria*¹⁸

A National Society was founded in Syria soon after the Second World War. Originally, it appears that the prime movers in the Syrian Society rejected both the red cross (redolent of the French domination) and the red crescent (reminiscent of the Turkish domination). They therefore advocated a red palm as the emblem, a koranic and biblical emblem.

Opposed by the ICRC, this attempt was soon abandoned. The Syrian Red Crescent Society was recognized on 12 October 1946.

¹⁷ Source: ICRC records, file No. 121 (32).

¹⁸ Source: ICRC records, file No. CR 00/61.

*Thailand*¹⁹

In 1893 the border dispute between France and Siam degenerated into armed conflict. Stimulated by Queen Saavakha, a society for assistance to the wounded was founded in Bangkok. It adopted the name *Sabha Unalome Deng*, which may be translated as Society of the Red Flame.

The Society's emblem combined the sign of the red cross with the buddhist symbol of the flame.

During the 1899 and 1906 Conferences, the representatives of Siam attempted to obtain recognition of that emblem. However, after the 1906 Conference, Siam adopted the emblem of the red cross on a white ground for the protection of the armed forces medical service.

In 1918 the National Society adopted the name *Sabha Ka Chad Syam*, i.e. Red Cross Society of Siam. It was recognized on 27 May 1920.

*USSR*²⁰

The Constitution of 31 January 1924 gave the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics a federal structure. In 1926 the National Society was reorganized in accordance with the principles of decentralization and self-governing branches in the various republics. To all internal intents and purposes, these branches became autonomous Societies. Depending on the predominating element of the population, they adopted the name and emblem of the Red Cross or of the Red Crescent.

These Societies founded in Moscow a co-ordinating body, the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Socialist Federal Soviet Republics. The Executive Committee of the Alliance is responsible mainly for co-ordinated representation of the Societies abroad.

In its administrative tasks, the Alliance uses an emblem consisting of the red cross *and* the red crescent, but apparently each Society in its operational activities uses its own sign.

¹⁹ Sources: — Bye-laws of the Red Cross of Siam, in *Bulletin des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge*, 1920, pp. 771 ff.

— ICRC records, file No. CR 00/53.

— Communication from Mr. Gerhard Dumke, Dr. Jur., Landesgerichtsrat, Oberhausen, dated 20 March 1951, in ICRC records, file No. 043.

²⁰ Source: ICRC records, file No. CR 00/50c.

On 15 October 1921, the International Committee had recognized the Moscow Red Cross as the "Red Cross Society in Russia, that is to say, in that part of the old Russian empire which constitutes the territory of the Socialist Federal Soviet Republic".²¹ It had previously received an assurance from the Russian Red Cross "that no other National Red Cross Society will be recognized on the territory of the Soviet Republic".²² Following the reorganization in 1926, the Executive Committee of the Alliance considered that each Society should be recognized individually. However, the ICRC was of the opinion that "the Executive Committee of the Alliance had... *ipso facto* taken over the place and functions in the international organization of the Red Cross of the former Central Committee of the Russian Red Cross of the Soviet Republic".²³ In the ICRC view, therefore, there was no question of granting recognition again but simply of taking note of the substitution of one body for another.

Moreover, from the point of view of assistance and relief activities, the 1926 reorganization did not result in the adoption of a new emblem, since each Society continued using one single emblem and name.

Zaire ²⁴

The Congolese Red Cross, founded immediately after independence, encountered difficulties at the outset. Various contending factions in the country were seeking to gain control of the National Society. This resulted in the founding of rival societies.

One such society was the Society of the Red Lamb of Central Congo which expanded to a certain extent in 1963 and 1964. In September 1963 its request to the ICRC, the League and a number of National Societies for recognition and material assistance was considered inadmissible.

²¹ Circular No. 206 to the Central Committees of the Red Cross, dated 15 October 1921.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Circular No. 275 to the Central Committees of the Red Cross, dated 3 January 1928.

²⁴ Source: ICRC records, file No. 121 (37).

TABLE I: RECOGNIZED EMBLEMS (ARTICLE 38, CONVENTION I)

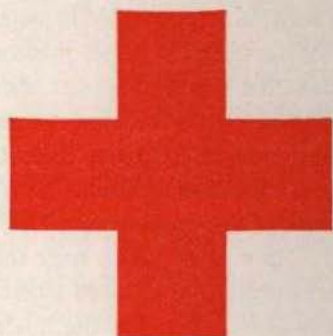


TABLE II: UNRECOGNIZED EMBLEMS



AFGHANISTAN



CYPRUS



INDIA
(Conjectural)



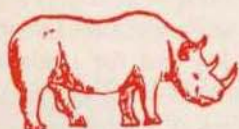
ISRAEL



JAPAN



LEBANON
(Conjectural)



SUDAN
(Conjectural)



SRI LANKA
(Conjectural)



SRI LANKA



SYRIA
(Conjectural)



THAILAND



DISSIDENT SOCIETY
OF CENTRAL CONGO

NOTE: Only the emblem of the red shield of David (Israel) is in fact used.

Conclusion

The foregoing pages were intended to review the historical circumstances which led to the break-up of the emblem unity.

To conclude this study we must briefly analyse the present situation.¹

1. Present situation

Originally the unity of the emblem appeared to be essential for an international system of protection for the wounded and for medical personnel. This concept was eroded, two other emblems being recognized in addition to the original. This raised the spectre of a succession of emblems. Consequently, new emblems were refused, although the unity of the sign was not restored.

This situation may be explained by historical factors. On the other hand, it is hardly defensible on grounds of logic and equity.

Moreover, it is a source of many difficulties:

(a) It may be asked whether the co-existence of three emblems is genuinely in accordance with that principle of equal rights which should govern international relations. It gives the impression of a bias in favour of Christian and Moslem countries, and of discrimination against those of other faiths.

¹ In our conclusions, we have taken into account the analysis and proposals advanced by the Study Group for the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross. See Donald D. Tansley, *Final Report: An Agenda for Red Cross*, Geneva, Henry Dunant Institute, July 1975, pp. 125-127.

Much has been written on the religious or non-religious character of the original emblem; we have avoided reopening that debate. The significance of an emblem is essentially in the eye of the beholder; but unquestionably the co-existence of the red cross, red crescent and red lion and sun confers on these three emblems a religious connotation which the original emblem alone did not have. It was the appearance of the red crescent alongside the red cross which invested the latter with a religious significance it had not previously possessed.

To return to the single emblem would be to eliminate the discrimination which appears to tarnish the present situation.

(b) The adoption of several emblems has caused many difficulties in countries where communities of different faiths co-exist. Whatever efforts the National Society makes to serve the whole population, it will appear to identify with the religious group suggested by its emblem. This will hinder the development of its activities.

In the event of religion-based disorders or of civil war, the protective sign is likely to be ignored and the National Society will be paralysed at the very time its action is most needed. Recent examples have underlined the seriousness of that situation.

(c) The co-existence of three emblems undermines the unity of the Red Cross movement whose vocation requires it to transcend cultural, religious and ideological divisions. In many quarters the plurality of signs is considered incompatible with the ideal of international solidarity, and a symptom of the movement's failure to overcome religious obstacles.

(d) Finally, the plurality of emblems imperils the value of the protective sign: it is a source of errors and may even be the cause of deliberate violations, a particularly serious danger when a national symbol is used as a protective sign.

Indeed, the emblem's power to protect depends in the first place on it being the same for friend and foe. When that unity is split, respect of the emblem—and hence the safety of the wounded—is in jeopardy.

2. Conclusion

Our objective was to review the history of the red cross sign and of exceptional signs. The situation revealed seems illogical and inequitable.

We have limited ourselves to the historical aspects; it is therefore not for us to put forward proposals to change the present situation.

Nevertheless, it seems that the emblem question deserves further examination with a view to finding a compromise acceptable to everyone. The unity and universality of the protective sign are well worth the sacrifice which everyone must make to achieve them. Nothing less than the safety of the wounded and the medical personnel is at stake.

Although only a diplomatic conference could amend article 38 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field, we believe that efforts to restore emblem unity should be made first and foremost within the Red Cross movement. After all, it is the Red Cross which bears the brunt: its unity, its universality, and its ability to act for the benefit of victims of armed conflicts are impaired. By offering a clear solution to the emblem problem, the movement would give vivid proof of its ideal of solidarity transcending national, cultural, ideological and religious barriers.

If the movement found such a solution, States could be expected to follow the lead. Incidentally, there is a precedent: the protective sign was devised by the Relief Societies and then adopted by States.

F. BUGNION

PROTECTION AND NURSES

Developments in international humanitarian law

by Yves Sandoz

The fourth and last session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts has just opened. The Conference is considering two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The first widens the scope of humanitarian law applicable in international armed conflicts, in particular by giving additional protection to civilians even when they are not in the enemy's power, and by extending to civilian medical personnel the protection which until now had been granted only to military medical personnel. The second Protocol develops the law applicable in non-international armed conflicts, which until now was restricted to a few principles contained in common article 3 of the four Conventions of 1949.

Nurses may become involved in such conflicts in various ways: their own country may be at war with one or more States, or it may be occupied by the troops of a foreign power, or it might be the theatre of civil war.

It could also happen that nurses might be caught up in wars which do not touch their own country: for example, the medical staff of relief societies in States not involved in a conflict may be made available, subject to certain conditions, to the parties to a conflict, to help them in their medical tasks.

The rights and duties of nurses in any one of those cases will be briefly examined here.

Duties of nurses

The duties of nurses are closely related to the rights of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons under their care. It should be pointed out, first of all, that the Protocols currently under discussion give much wider definitions of wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons than those which are customarily accepted: the wounded and sick—provided, of course, they refrain from any act of hostility—may be either military or civilian, their status of “wounded”, “sick” or “shipwrecked” taking precedence provisionally over any other status. Maternity cases, expectant mothers, new-born babies and the infirm are assimilated to wounded and sick.

The rights of those persons—and consequently the nurses’ duties towards them—are basically the following: respect (i.e. the right not to be harmed), protection (the right to receive assistance), humane treatment (the right to receive the very best possible medical care which their condition requires). Two principles must not be forgotten in connection with those rights: the persons concerned may not renounce them, even of their own free will (inalienable rights); and care should be given to protected persons without any adverse distinction founded on religion, race or any other criteria, urgent medical reasons alone authorizing priority in the order of treatment to be administered (principle of non-discrimination).

Parallel to those duties which may be called the active duties of nurses in relation to the rights of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked, there are also those which may be called passive duties. Nurses must not forget that reprisals against the wounded, the sick and the shipwrecked, against prisoners and civilians, are severely prohibited, even though members of the opposing party may have perpetrated acts of violence against the wounded, sick and shipwrecked in their power. They must under no circumstances whatsoever be involved in acts of violence in reprisal against the persons under their care. Indeed, they should oppose such acts with all the means they possess.

The Protocols also provide for certain fundamental guarantees applicable in armed conflicts to all persons who do not enjoy wider protection. Those guarantees—whose exact formulation is still under discussion—include the prohibition of endangering the physical or mental health of persons and of performing any medical act which might harm the patient. Here, again, it is the nurse’s duty to abstain from taking part

in such acts and to stop them if possible. In principle, nurses must abstain also from giving any information which they might have received from persons under their care.

Rights of nurses

It is only because wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons need the services of medical personnel that the latter are entitled to certain rights, without which they would not be able to perform their tasks adequately. In the case of temporary medical personnel, it is only when such persons are working as medical personnel that they may enjoy those rights, which are attached to their function and not to their person.

Medical personnel have as much right to respect and protection as the wounded, sick and shipwrecked. In case of need, they shall be afforded assistance and they shall have access to any place where their services are essential, subject of course to appropriate supervisory and security measures. Under the Protocols now being discussed civilian medical personnel also are entitled to this freedom of movement. Medical personnel shall not be punished in any way for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics, even if such medical care is for enemy persons. This immunity is the obvious corollary of the principle of non-discrimination in the care of the wounded and sick. Similarly, the duty not to take part in medical acts contrary to the patient's health implies the right of the medical personnel not to be compelled to perform such acts.

Medical personnel attached to armies may not be retained when captured. No exception to this rule may be invoked in the case of personnel of relief societies sent to help one of the parties to the conflict. In the case of medical personnel of a party to the conflict, they may be retained only in so far as their services may be required to tend prisoners of war belonging to their own party. Such personnel may not be compelled to carry out any work other than their medical duties and must be released when their services are no longer required. These restrictions in the rights of medical personnel are only in the interest of the wounded and sick. Pursuant to this same principle, the requisition by the occupying power of civilian hospitals or other civilian medical establishment is not absolutely forbidden. If there are many wounded

among the occupying forces and the hospitals in the occupied territory are almost empty and their staff only partially employed, the principle of non-discrimination demands that those hospitals and their staffs should be used to care for those wounded. Requisition is therefore allowed on those grounds, provided that the health of the civilian patients treated in those hospitals is not impaired and that the medical needs of the civilian population as a whole continue to be satisfied. In any case, the requisition should only last while there is a need for it.

It should also be noted that medical personnel have to observe certain obligations which are inherent to their rights. Thus, to be respected, it is essential that they should be recognizable; consequently, they must wear a distinctive emblem and carry a special identity card.

Finally, the rights afforded to medical personnel rest, above all, like the entire Red Cross system in time of conflict, on a foundation of trust.

If nurses consented to perform tasks not related to their duties — for example, spying—not only would they lose all their rights, the work of the Red Cross itself would be jeopardized.

Conclusion

The broad principles governing medical personnel activities in time of conflict are simple. Besides, the majority of those principles (respect, protection of and aid to the wounded and sick; non-discrimination in care of patients; prohibition of activities harmful to the patients) are valid at all times and in all places. There is no doubt that most nurses, obeying the natural impulse of their feelings, unconsciously apply them without having actually learnt them.

All the same, all nursing personnel should be taught the principles, for it is of vital importance that they should know exactly what are their rights and their duties.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ICRC Assembly at Basle

The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross met in Basle on 2 and 3 June.

The meetings of the Assembly took place in Basle City Hall. Afterwards, the ICRC welcomed the civic authorities and representatives of the churches, the economic sectors, education and the local press, to a reception. The occasion ended with a public « round table discussion » on « The ICRC and humanitarian imperatives of today and tomorrow ». An ICRC information centre, comprising an exhibition with multi-vision equipment and a publications stand, was open to the public throughout the Assembly's deliberations, and was visited by many school parties.

In taking this step, the ICRC wished to demonstrate its links with Basle, home of more than one generous humanitarian institution — for example, it was in Basle that the central prisoner-of-war agency was set up in the war of 1870-1871 — and birth place of several eminent personalities of the Red Cross. At the same time the International Committee desired to emphasize that though its headquarters may be in Geneva and its mission completely international, it is made up of Swiss citizens, and that the material and moral support of the Swiss people is vital to enable it to perform its humanitarian activities all over the world.

ICRC President visits National Societies

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, attended the centenary commemorations of two National Red Cross Societies during the month of May.

From 6 to 8 May he was in Helsinki, accompanied by Mr. R. Pestalozzi, member of the International Committee, and Mr. M. Borsinger,

delegate general for Europe, at the invitation of the Finnish Red Cross. In the course of the ceremonies, the President of the Finnish Republic bestowed on Mr. Hay the Cross of the Finnish Red Cross.

Also present in Helsinki were Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Mr. H. Beer, League Secretary General, together with representatives of many National Red Cross Societies.

From 26 to 28 May, the ICRC President was in Tokyo, invited by the Japanese Red Cross to take part in the commemorations of its centenary. Mr. Barroso too was present. The two Red Cross officials were received in private audience by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and Her Imperial Majesty the Empress, who is President of the Japanese Red Cross, just before the opening of the centenary celebrations, which took place in the presence of Their Majesties.

ICRC Meeting on Medical Matters

The ICRC Medical Division organized a seminar from 3 to 5 May at Cartigny, near Geneva, for about 50 Swiss doctors who had carried out medical missions abroad. Those taking part in the meetings included ICRC staff, members of the Swiss Red Cross and of the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps. Two Danish doctors were also invited.

The purpose of the seminar was to pool experience gained in various medical missions abroad, to put forward constructive suggestions and at the same time to provide doctors with supplementary medical data, mainly relating to hygiene, nutrition, epidemiology and tropical diseases, which might be useful for future missions.

After consideration of the practical problems arising from four ICRC missions (Nigeria/Biafra, Laos, Angola and Cambodia), each of a highly different nature, the following subjects were discussed: medical teams in disaster situations, the function of general medicine and pediatrics in emergency situations, mobile medical teams (function and efficiency), medical and nutritional aid, standardisation and storage of medicaments, the role of ICRC medical delegates in visits to places of detention.

The doctors expressed the following wishes at the conclusion of the seminar: that steps be taken to give additional training to Swiss doctors going on mission outside Switzerland and that a documentation centre

be set up for all Swiss doctors who might be concerned, that an appropriate solution be found for planning and co-ordinating gifts of medicaments, such gifts having given rise in every previous operation to problems relating to their quantity, quality and often to their unsuitability for certain regions; and that medicaments be better packed, with due regard to specific transport and climatic conditions.

ICRC Member resigns

In a letter dated 27 May 1977, Mr. Mierre Micheli, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, tendered his resignation from the ICRC for health reasons, with effect from 1 June.

It was with deep regret that the ICRC took note of this decision. In a letter sent to Mr. Micheli, a member of the International Committee since 1971, the Committee expressed its appreciation of his valuable co-operation during those six years and its best wishes for improvement in his health.

Australian Red Cross honours Roger Gallopin

On the occasion of the meeting of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross, held in Geneva at the beginning of May, Mr Roger Gallopin, former President of the ICRC Executive Board, received the Medal of Honour of the Australian Red Cross from Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, President of the Society.

In conferring the decoration, Sir Geoffrey said that the Australian Red Cross Society wished to honour this man, devoted to the Red Cross, who, both as a diplomat and as a legal expert, "had shown brilliant qualities of leadership and above all, extraordinary sensitive knowledge of men and events".

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Africa****Rhodesia**

From 2 to 9 May, four delegates and a doctor of the ICRC made a new series of visits to places of detention in Rhodesia. They went to eight prisons, where they saw a total of 817 persons detained under the Emergency Regulations. The previous ICRC mission took place in November 1976.

Botswana

During the month of May, the ICRC delegates twice returned to the refugee camps in Francistown and Selibi Pikwe, in order to keep track of the situation from the humanitarian viewpoint and to complete their assessment of needs. A sum of 30,000 Swiss francs, granted by the ICRC to the Botswana Red Cross Society for an emergency aid programme, made possible the purchase of medicines, food and clothing and provided means to set up a Red Cross team to organize local distributions of aid.

Burundi

On 23 May, Mr. U. Bédert, ICRC regional delegate for West Africa, began a series of visits to places of detention in Burundi. He went to ten prisons holding a total of almost 2,000 detainees. Consequent on this mission, the ICRC gave 15,000 Swiss francs for continuing these visits and for the improvement of the conditions of detention, chiefly by repairs to buildings and by the purchase of supplies for the detainees. Mr. Bédert had a meeting with the Minister of Justice, to whom he reported his findings.

Tanzania

Mr. J.-F. Borel, ICRC regional delegate for East Africa, attended the first sub-regional meeting of National Youth Directors in English-speaking African countries, which took place from 24 to 27 May in Dar-es-Salaam. The event was organized jointly by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Tanzania Red Cross Society.

Tunisia

On the occasion of the national week of the Tunisian Red Crescent, the Society invited Mr. Pierre Gaillard, ICRC adviser, to give a series of lectures on the Geneva Conventions. Between 2 and 8 May Mr. Gaillard went to Tunis, Fondouk Jedid, Carthage, Sfax and Bizerta, speaking in nursing colleges, military training establishments and to the regional committees of the Red Crescent. Wherever he went he found a warm welcome, and his listeners showed their keen interest by the many questions they asked at the end of each lecture.

Latin America**Paraguay**

During May, a delegate and a doctor from the ICRC paid visits to six places of detention in Paraguay. They saw 222 persons detained for political reasons or offences. In two prisons they distributed toilet articles and food.

Chile

In May, ICRC delegates and doctors visited twelve places of detention in Chile and saw about one hundred detainees. They distributed relief supplies to a total value of 6,440 dollars, consisting mainly of medicines, eyeglasses, toilet articles, sports equipment and food. Nine consignments of medicines were also sent to prisons. Aid to needy families of detainees continued; 888 families, totalling 3,265 persons, received aid valued at 60,540 dollars during May.

Argentina

Mr. R. Jenny, ICRC regional delegate for the southern region of South America, had several meetings in May with representatives of the

Government. In particular, he met the Deputy Minister of the Interior and gave him an account of ICRC activities after the first two series of visits to places of detention in the country, carried out in recent months.

El Salvador

Mr. R. Chevalley, ICRC regional delegate, stayed in El Salvador from 11 to 24 May, and met leaders of the National Red Cross Society and members of the Government, among them the Ministers of the Interior and of Defence, to whom he described the roles and activities of the ICRC.

Asia

Thailand

From 11 to 30 May, Mr. A. Pasquier, ICRC regional delegate for South-East Asia, accompanied by a doctor provided by the Thai Red Cross Society, visited ten places of detention in Bangkok and other parts of the country. He saw 363 persons detained for political offences or reasons.

Viet Nam

Two repatriation operations by air were carried out on 18 and 23 May under the auspices of the ICRC; in this way 276 persons who had been living in Viet Nam were taken to Taipei, via Bangkok.

These flights were a continuation of the repatriation campaign organized by the ICRC in 1975 and 1976 for returning foreign residents of Viet Nam to their home countries.

Malaysia

The sum of 10,000 Swiss francs has been donated by the ICRC to help the activities of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, which is planning the construction of its new headquarters building. The National Society provides full support to the ICRC regional delegation based in Kuala Lumpur.

Iran

A series of visits to places of detention in Iran was made during April and May. Four delegates and two doctors of the ICRC visited

five places of detention in the Teheran area and fifteen others elsewhere in the country. The ICRC delegates talked without witnesses to the detainees of their choice, and had access to all the buildings in the places of detention visited. This was the first series of visits by the ICRC to places of detention in Iran.

India

Following the recent change of government in India, the ICRC regional delegate in New Delhi paid a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Morarji Desai, and discussed with him the humanitarian mission of the ICRC in that part of the world.

Pakistan

Mr. D. Borel, ICRC regional delegate for the Asian sub-continent, was in Pakistan from 4 to 15 May. He met Mrs. Z. A. Bhutto, wife of the President, and leading members of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the Cabinet Division. One of the main subjects of discussion was the unresolved question concerning methods of transport for those persons authorized to travel from Bangladesh to Pakistan; another matter raised was the situation within the country. Mr. Borel gave two lectures on the ICRC and the Geneva Conventions in the Armed Forces Medical College.

Europe

Cyprus

The ICRC's offices in Cyprus are shortly to be closed. To announce this measure to the authorities and others, and to explain the International Committee's plans for the future, Mr. Melchior Borsinger, ICRC delegate general for Europe and North America, paid a visit to the island from 23 to 30 May. Accompanied by Mr. Georg Hoffmann, head of the Nicosia delegation, Mr. Borsinger was received by Mgr Makarios and by Mr. Rauf Denktash.

Mr. Borsinger and Mr. Hoffmann explained the reasons which led to the decision to shut down the ICRC delegation in Nicosia, while stressing that the humanitarian problems remaining to be solved would be dealt with, from 1 July 1977, from Geneva and by regular missions to Cyprus. This procedure was greeted favourably by the two parties concerned.

The two ICRC representatives also met the leaders of the Cyprus Red Cross, which will remain in direct contact with Geneva on all questions within its competence.

In addition, the two men had talks with Ambassador Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations special representative in Cyprus, and with Mr. Rémy Gorge, his principal political adviser.

Portugal

From 8 to 19 May, an ICRC delegate visited Portugal. In addition to contacts with the authorities and the National Society, he visited the military prison at Caxias, where he talked to 21 political detainees without witnesses. The ICRC donated a sum of 10,000 Swiss francs to the Portuguese Red Cross, to enable it to continue helping the needy families of detainees.

Middle East

Lebanon

The situation in Lebanon is very gradually returning to normal—apart from occasional fighting, especially in the south of the country—and the improved atmosphere has made it possible for the ICRC to establish a timetable for phasing out its relief action. Adhering to its principle of action, which is to come to the aid of war victims in the most urgent stages and to withdraw as soon as normal conditions begin to be re-established, the ICRC is to hand over part of its aid activities to governmental and specialized agencies, so that from now on it can concentrate on the work of protection and on tracing missing persons. The dismantling of the supply and distribution system will be carried out in parallel with the phasing out of relief operations staff.

Nevertheless, in May there was much relief activity: the chartered vessel, the *Kalliopi*, made its last trips between Limassol and Beirut, bringing the remaining relief supplies that had been held in storage in Cyprus (with the exception of 350 tons kept as an emergency reserve). The ICRC ship transported a total of 1,700 tons of relief supplies during May, most of them being provided by the European Economic Community (EEC) and valued at 7 million Swiss francs. Thus the grand total of goods dispatched to Lebanon by the ICRC between October 1975 and May 1977 is 15,518 tons, representing 58.5 million Swiss francs.

The figures break down as follows: 13,479 tons of foodstuffs, 1,200 tons of blankets and clothing, 664 tons of medicines and medical equipment and 175 tons of miscellaneous goods (kitchen utensils, in particular). Among the donors, apart from Governments and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, were many inter-governmental and international organizations such as the European Economic Community (EEC), UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR), and others.

In the south of Lebanon, the direct distribution of relief supplies by the ICRC has continued intensively, to bring emergency food and medical supplies to the civilian population. In May, more than 200 tons of relief supplies were sent to this region. The convoys also made it possible for the ICRC to bring out ten people requiring urgent medical treatment.

The ICRC intends to keep up this operation in the south of the country for as long as the disturbed situation gives rise to needs that cannot be met by any other body.

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On 17 May a meeting was held, in the ICRC headquarters in Geneva, of some National Red Cross Societies geographically close to Switzerland and which had taken part in the ICRC's action in Lebanon. The ICRC wished to present an account of its activities in the country, after making an analysis of the various stages of the operations.

Israel and the occupied territories

In May three transfer operations were carried out under the auspices of the ICRC, across the United Nations buffer zone in Sinai, and on the occupied Golan Heights.

On 11 May, 95 persons going to visit their families and ten students enrolled in the University of Cairo crossed at El Khirba the buffer zone towards the Egyptian capital; in the opposite direction, 157 visitors and ten students who had graduated travelled to the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai.

On 4 May, two young women from the occupied Golan Heights went to join their husbands who were studying in Damascus. On 26 May, four civilian detainees, released by the Israeli authorities, reached the Syrian Arab Republic.

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In Gaza on 22 May there was a public meeting held by the local members of the legal profession to discuss the ICRC and its activities. The 300 persons or so, who gathered to listen to the ICRC delegates, included almost all the judges and lawyers of the vicinity, the chairman and members of the local Red Crescent, teachers, university staff and students, and a great many ladies.

Egypt

Mr. J.-P. Hocké, director of the Operations Division of the ICRC in Geneva, went to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 6 to 13 May. He visited the ICRC delegation in Cairo, and had talks with the Egyptian authorities and the leaders of the Egyptian Red Crescent on the work being done by the ICRC in the Middle East.

Arab Republic of Yemen

An ICRC delegate who had been in the Arab Republic of Yemen since 28 April has completed his mission. He visited ten places of detention, in Sana'a and other towns and saw more than 1,350 detainees, twenty of them being held for political reasons or offences. Relief supplies of various kinds (medicines, clothing, blankets, sleeping mats, water tanks, etc.) were distributed in the prisons visited. The value of these supplies amounted to 35,000 Swiss francs.

STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS

The Standing Commission met on 5 May at ICRC headquarters in Geneva under the chairmanship of Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris. The League of Red Cross Societies was represented by Mr. J. Barroso and Mr. S. Ranganathan; the ICRC by Mr. A. Hay and Mr. J. Pictet. Of the five National Society members, elected in their personal capacity, Mrs. Issa El-Khoury was absent because of the situation in Lebanon, and Mrs. N. V. Troyan was represented by Dr. V. A. Baltiyski, Chairman of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR.

The Commission was concerned essentially with the planning of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross to be held in Bucharest in October. General Mihai Burca, President of the Romanian Red Cross, attended the meeting and reported on the progress of preparations. He assured the Commission that in spite of the difficulties caused by the earthquake last March the Romanian Red Cross was able to do everything required to ensure the smooth running of the conference in good conditions.

Other matters related to the Conference were dealt with, namely: proposals to include on the agenda the subjects of famine, disarmament, and a "family-reuniting year"; the chairmanship of the three Conference Commissions; simplification of the procedure for electing members of the Standing Commission; and publicity for the Conference. The Standing Commission then chose four people to whom the Henry Dunant Medal will be presented at the Conference. To conclude, reports were read out on current ICRC and League activities.

The Red Cross and Peace

It will be recalled that in June 1975 a conference held at Belgrade attended by representatives of some eighty National Societies adopted a "Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace". Later that same year, two resolutions on the Programme of Action were adopted, one by the League Board of Governors and the other by the Council of Delegates.

The first resolution invited the Chairman of the Board of Governors to form a Commission to see to the implementation of the Programme of Action by the National Societies and international Red Cross bodies.

In the second resolution, the Council of Delegates requested that a working group be set up to submit, for consideration by the Council at its next session, proposals, taking into account the comments and suggestions arising from some of the recommendations expressed in the Programme of Action.

The Commission met in Geneva, on 2 May 1977, at the League's headquarters, with Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors, in the chair. It noted the measures taken by the international Red Cross bodies and by various National Societies to implement the Programme of Action.

The working group, chaired by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, met at the ICRC on 2 and 3 May, and formulated several proposals clarifying the meaning and scope of those recommendations in the Programme of Action which had not received unanimous approval at the Belgrade Conference. Its report will be submitted shortly to the members of the Council of Delegates, who will examine its proposals next October at Bucharest.



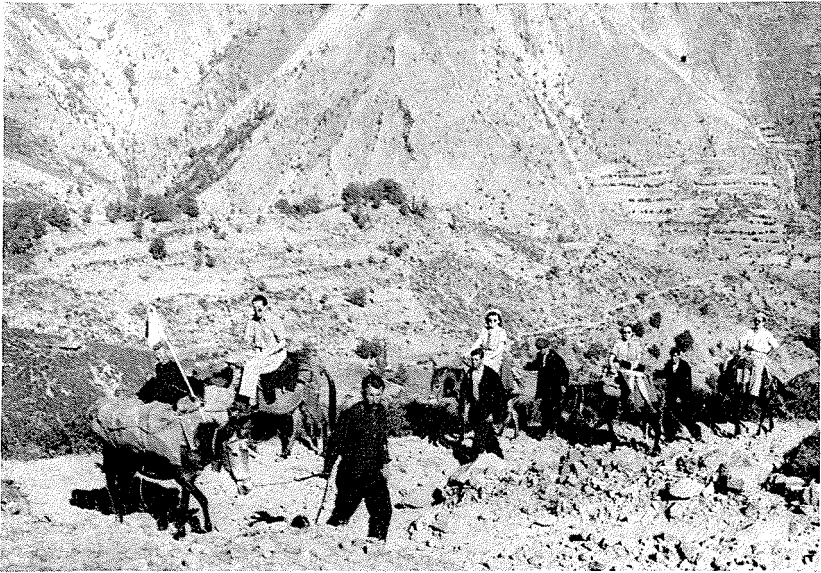
World Red Cross Day celebration: At the League, 5 May 1977, Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League Board of Governors, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Chairman of the Standing Commission, and Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Photo League of Red Cross Societies, Lily Solmssen



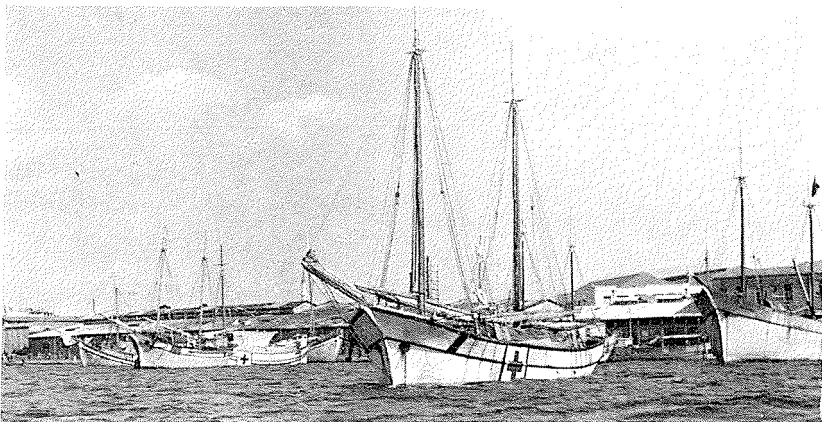
Rangoon: Mr. D. Borel, ICRC regional delegate, visits Burma Red Cross (April 1977).

CENTENARY OF THE HELLENIC RED CROSS



Red Cross boats for ferrying of supplies to Greek islands during Second World War.

Photo League of Red Cross Societies



Hellenic Red Cross mobile medical team during the 1947-1948 disturbances.

Photo ICRC Archives

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MEETING ON THE "BIG STUDY"

Donald Tansley, the Canadian expert appointed by the International Red Cross to carry out a "re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross in the world" submitted his report in the autumn of 1975.

Since then, the various national and international bodies of the Red Cross, aware of the significance of what became known as the "Big Study", have settled down to the task of examining the report and are getting ready to discuss it next October at the forthcoming Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross at Bucharest.

It is clear that a debate on the "Big Study", with some 250 government and National Red Cross Society delegations taking part, will not produce substantial results unless it is carefully prepared. Therefore, the League, which is the federation of the 123 recognized National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies decided to bring together, to that end, some thirty International Red Cross senior officials at Montreux for discussions which lasted from 29 April to 1 May.

It was an opportunity for the League's Chairman José Barroso (Mexico) and its eight Vice-Chairmen to meet informally eight members of the ICRC, led by ICRC President Alexandre Hay, for exchanges of views.

The International Red Cross Standing Commission, whose Chairman is Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia), was also represented at Montreux.



Centenary of the Hellenic Red Cross

Greece acceded to the first Geneva Convention of 22 August 1864 in January 1865. The Hellenic Red Cross Society was founded in 1877, its foundation being approved by a royal decree dated 10 June 1877 (22 June 1877 according to the Julian calendar), and it was recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 6 October that same year.

In its Circular No. 40 to the Central Committees for aid to wounded soldiers, the ICRC sent the following message, signed by its President G. Moynier, and its Secretary, G. Ador: "...today we take our pen to announce good tidings, and we are sure you will rejoice with us at the news that a Greek Society for aid to the wounded of armed forces in the field has recently been formed. Its creation is due to the initiative of H. M. the Queen of the Hellenes, who has graciously consented to place it under her high patronage, and its statutes have been formally approved by a royal decree dated 10/22 June 1877. The Society's Honorary President is the Metropolitan of Athens. . . ." The President was the Governor of the Bank of Greece.

A ladies' auxiliary committee in Athens was founded at the same time and its President was the "First Lady-in-Waiting" of Her Majesty the Queen, "at the Court Athens".

The Hellenic Red Cross which was placed from the day of its foundation under the Queen's protection and which inherited an age-long tradition of fellowship towards all people in distress, enjoyed from its inception the support and backing of the entire Greek population. The Society developed steadily from 1877 onwards and its field of activity grew ever more extensively.

Here, for example, is an extract from the report ¹ on the Society's activities in 1898:

"... The Society continued its aid to the Thessalian refugees in Athens, Piraeus and Euboea, whom it treated as victims of the war, and

¹ Report published in the *Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge*, 1901, pp. 99-104.

who were still in deep distress and were suffering just as much from the dreadful insanitary conditions. Our association decided to continue supplying them with aid in the form of medical treatment, medicaments and basic necessities. From 1 January to 23 May 1898, it provided 17,348 okes of milk for the sick. It set up specially for the Thessalian refugees a dispensary which, in 1898, prepared 41,214 prescriptions issued by Red Cross doctors. . . . Pharmacists and physicians vied with each other to render aid in a situation made still more distressing by the epidemics which broke out that winter in Athens. The worst cases were treated at the Kypseli Red Cross Hospital. The association also organized the general vaccination of all the refugees and supplied them with anti-diphtheria serum, beds, bedclothes, underwear, etc.”

The Society moreover started to organize peace-time relief activities in the very earliest years of its existence and took part in international relief operations, as may be seen in its report ¹ for the years 1899 to 1901:

“The Greek Red Cross, which considers it its duty to go to the aid of all the victims of disasters, gave relief during the last three years to needy smallpox patients in Athens, in Piraeus and in the village of Aprovato on Andros Island. It furnished equipment for the speedy set-up of a smallpox isolation hospital at Cantharos, near Piraeus, organized transport to evacuate smallpox patients from Athens and Piraeus, and sent disinfectants to Aprovato.

“The association also sent the following relief supplies: underwear, clothing and bedclothes for the Greek refugees from the Caucasus in Piraeus; tents for the earthquake victims in Kyparissia; antiseptics, medicaments, dressings, wine, etc., to various benevolent institutions, such as the dispensary at Corfu, the Hermoupolis Hospital (Syra), the Yero-Limin Hospital and various hospitals in Athens (the Evangelismos, the “Elpis” municipal hospital, the Areteion, the military hospital) and the Zannion in Piraeus.

“From the time when war broke out in South Africa, the Greek Red Cross, moved by the spirit of moral fellowship uniting all Red Cross associations to whatever country they might belong, wished to demonstrate its fellow feelings towards the wounded of the belligerent armies. In its desire to discharge its duty of international solidarity, it sent wine, brandy and cigarettes to the English Red Cross in London, the Transvaal Red Cross in Pretoria and the Orange Red Cross in Bloemfontein. . . .”

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¹ *Bulletin international des Société de la Croix-Rouge*, 1903, pp. 92-94.

Today, after the latest revision of its statutes in 1965, the Hellenic Red Cross is administered by a Central Committee of 25 members, from amongst whom the executive committee members are elected. The Society's President is the chairman of the executive committee. There is a section of the Hellenic Red Cross in the capital of each "nomoi" (departments), and local committees have been set up in other towns. There are 82 active provincial sections.

The Society entertains excellent relations with the Greek Government, and meetings of the Hellenic Red Cross Committee are attended by representatives of five different ministries (Foreign Affairs, Education, National Defence, Finance and Social Welfare), who however are not entitled to vote. The Society's annual budget, which in the last few years has amounted to an average of one hundred million drachmae (about 250,000 US dollars), is covered by a substantial Government grant, an annual public collection campaign and contributions paid by the Society's members.

The public collection is countrywide and nurses, schoolchildren, boy scouts and other volunteers make door-to-door visits to collect donations. The campaign is generally a big success, which shows the affection which the inhabitants bear towards their National Red Cross Society.

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During the past hundred years, Greece has experienced extremely turbulent and often tragic periods: two wars against Turkey, in 1897 and again in 1920-21, the Balkan Wars in 1912-13, two world wars, invasion and occupation by foreign troops, several national uprisings and serious internal disturbances, successive changes of régime . . . there were few trials and difficulties from which it did not suffer at one time or another. The Hellenic Red Cross has always been active and ready on the spot in the course of its long history, endeavouring to bring relief to the many victims.

In such conditions, the Hellenic Red Cross considered it was of paramount importance, if it were to act swiftly and effectively in time of war, epidemic or natural disaster, that it should be able to count upon a medical service and upon nursing personnel in adequate numbers.

Today, over 12,000 nurses are enrolled in the Red Cross; 1,500 of them are registered nurses who have gone through a four-year course, while nearly 11,000 are nursing volunteers. In addition, in 1932 the Hellenic Red Cross began to train volunteer first aiders, who attend a course consisting of 128 lessons at the Red Cross First Aid School and complete their training in first-aid infirmaries. They number today about 2,500 persons.

In time of war the Hellenic Red Cross was able, thanks to its medical and nursing personnel, to care for tens of thousands of wounded and sick in its permanent hospitals, field hospitals and hospital ships.

In peacetime, it offers its services to the Greek population. Besides its big general hospital in Athens, it set up, in 1923 in Voula (Attiki) some twenty kilometres outside Athens, an "Asclepeion", or hospital for patients suffering from tuberculosis of the bones. About twenty-five years ago, with the decline in the incidence of this disease, this Asclepeion was turned into a 750-bed orthopedic hospital.

Another Asclepeion, with 150 beds, is to be found on the Island of Leros. The Society owns three more general hospitals, each containing 30 to 45 beds, in Epirus, in the Peloponnessos and in the islands.

Blood transfusion was introduced and its service organized in Greece by the Hellenic Red Cross. From 1935, its Blood Transfusion Centre in Athens was able to meet the needs of the armed forces in time of war and of thousands of civilian patients in peacetime. The Centre has a research laboratory directed by eminent specialists. Blood transfusion services have also been set up in various other towns.

At the same time, the Society founded and organized, in Athens and elsewhere in the country, first-aid posts, where Red Cross ambulances are stationed ready at any time to take casualties and sick persons to hospital. It is estimated that approximately 200,000 trips of this kind are made every year by these vehicles. The Red Cross keeps fully equipped field hospitals, ready to be dispatched to the scene of epidemics or natural disasters.

The Hellenic Junior Red Cross was founded in 1924. During the Second World War it was disbanded, only to resume in 1946. It now counts half a million members belonging to 32,000 groups in schools throughout Greece. To lead and organize the activities of these groups, the Red Cross works in close co-operation with over 12,000 teachers, who instruct and help to propagate the ideals of the Red Cross. The National Society publishes a monthly periodical, called "The Hellenic Junior Red Cross", with a circulation of 300,000 copies. The Junior Red Cross is directed by a committee whose members belong to the Hellenic Red Cross and the Ministry for National Education, and its chairman is the President of the Red Cross Society.

In the summer of 1976, the Hellenic Red Cross opened a school for life-savers at sea. Within a few months, over 500 trainees followed the course and were awarded its diploma. At the same time, life-saving stations were attached to many of the first-aid posts referred to earlier to go to the aid of bathers in difficulty.

Social welfare work receives attention, too. Health education and the protection of mother and child are prominent activities and a very large proportion of the population is reached, through nurses, voluntary workers and Junior Red Cross members. The Society also runs a health education centre in Athens and a rural health centre at Marathon.

Help for the sick, in hospital or at home, is provided by social workers and voluntary social welfare workers who also look after the aged and care for those who are in some way handicapped, whether physically, mentally or socially.

This organized structure of the Hellenic Red Cross enabled it, working in co-operation with the Athens Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, to receive and accommodate about 2,800 refugees from Lebanon during 1976 and the earlier part of 1977. To do this, it mobilized 41 nurses and 15 doctors to care for the sick, the children and the social welfare cases among the refugees, who were all accommodated in Athens and its outskirts.

As regards information and public relations work, the Hellenic Red Cross does its utmost to kindle public interest in the ideals of the Red Cross, and to propagate the principles and aims of our movement. It is well served by the press, radio and television which willingly give the Society space and time. For example, they are always ready to report on the various important events which mark the Red Cross calendar: World Red Cross Day on 8 May, distributions of medals, presentations of diplomas, and so on.

A tracing service for missing persons is one of the departments of the Hellenic Red Cross. After the grave events of 1945-1947 endured by Greece, and on other occasions, too, the Hellenic Red Cross Tracing Service, in co-operation with the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency, managed to trace thousands of hostages and prisoners of war and return them to their families.

*

The Hellenic Red Cross and the ICRC have always worked very closely and actively together throughout the years in a spirit of great cordiality. It was during the Second World War and the months that immediately followed the end of the war that the work jointly performed

by them both was most considerable and remarkable and a few pages taken from the *Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge* in 1944 and 1945 give a striking picture of the conditions in which that work was carried out:¹

“The recent activities of the International Committee delegation in Athens were performed under very unusual and often dramatic conditions.

“The ICRC delegates in Greece pursued two different kinds of tasks. On the one hand, they discharged the specific duties incumbent upon the ICRC under the international Conventions of 1929; on the other hand, they distributed relief supplies to the civilian population and the hospital units in metropolitan Greece and the Greek Islands.

“The relief work accomplished was considerable; it should not be forgotten that for several years, ten, fifteen, and later nearly twenty thousand tons of foodstuffs arrived every month in the Port of Piraeus, to be unloaded, stored and the reloaded on lorries, caiques, goods wagons, and dispatched to various parts of the country for distribution. All means of communication were cut; bridges, railway lines, harbour installations had been rendered unfit for use, and none could say how long they would remain so. Civil war had broken out between the various political factions. The red cross sign was not everywhere respected and several times Red Cross lorries and the cars of delegates going about their mission were caught up in the firing.

“Sea transport involved great difficulties and was often fraught with danger. On its sixth voyage, in January 1942, the Turkish steamship “Kurtulus” ran aground in the Dardanelles and its precious cargo was lost. The “Stureborg” was torpedoed in the spring of 1942 and the ICRC agent on board was killed. Early in January 1943, the “Eros”, carrying foodstuffs to Salonika, struck a reef and sank.

“To round off this brief survey, we would also mention that, from the time when this relief action for the Greek people was begun until October 1943, more than 220,000 tons of wheat, about 6,250 tons of milk products equivalent to 13 million litres of milk, and 53,722 tons of various foodstuffs were distributed to the Greek inhabitants, thanks to the combined efforts of large numbers of willing volunteers.

“As regards the hostages, many attempts on both sides of the firing line were made, though in vain, to obtain their release. It was only on 5 January 1945 that the women, children and old people taken as hostages were released and the ICRC delegation obtained an official authorization to arrange for the return of those unfortunate people to Athens.

¹ *Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, 1944, p. 18 et sq; id. 1945, p. 120 et sq.

“The next thing to do was to set up a whole network to trace the hostages and organize communications between Lamia, south of Larissa, and Athens. The search for the 20,000 or so hostages, scattered in camps in mountainous areas, was rendered very arduous by the almost inaccessible regions in which some of the camps were located. The long, weary marches in wintry weather through deep snow were particularly distressing for the hostages, most of whom were underfed and in a state of utter destitution . . .”

*

The Hellenic Red Cross Society has managed to overcome the difficulties of the past and has stood up to seemingly crushing tasks. On the threshold of the second century of its existence, its friends express the wish that it may continue with the same courage and dedication which it has shown in the years gone by in its noble work and in times and circumstances which it is to be hoped will be less strenuous.

**Joint Commission
of the
Empress Shôken Fund**

No 68

Geneva, April 1977

FIFTY-SIXTH DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

The Joint Commission entrusted with the distribution of the income of the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva on 5th April 1977. The Japanese Red Cross Society was represented by His Excellency Ambassador Masao Sawaki.

The Commission noted the statement of accounts and the situation of the Fund as at 31st December 1976 and confirmed that the balance available amounted to Sw.Frs. 174,008.31.

In examining the applications, the Joint Commission reviewed the experiences of the past few years. The Commission noted that the criteria (a. b. c.) it had established for allocation were still valid —

- a. to restrict the number of allocations and thereby increase the allocations so as to permit the beneficiary National Societies to implement the plans envisaged;
- b. to uphold only those from developing National Societies unable to have their projects financed otherwise and, among such Societies, whenever feasible those which have hitherto benefited least from assistance from the Shôken Fund;

- c. to refrain from considering the requests from those National Societies which have not conformed to the requirements under article 5b of the Regulations according to which the beneficiary National Societies are expected to report on the use of the allocations received.

The Joint Commission further decided that:

- i. allocations be transferred to the beneficiaries only upon presentation of either invoices or proof of purchase;
- ii. allocations remaining unclaimed or unused after six months of such allocations are to be withdrawn and added to the amount available for the next distribution.

Sixteen National Societies submitted requests for allocations from the 56th Distribution of income and the Joint Commission decided to make the following grants based on the above-mentioned criteria:

Central African Red Cross Society: Sw.Frs. 20,000.—

for the purchase of a mini-bus for the Blood Transfusion Service

Chilean Red Cross Society: Sw.Frs. 25,000.—

for the purchase of a mini-bus for the Health Services of the Temuco Regional Committee

Moroccan Red Crescent Society: Sw.Frs. 25,000.—

for the purchase of an ambulance for the North-West region

Pakistan Red Crescent Society: Sw.Frs. 25,000.—

for the purchase of a mini-bus for the Blood Transfusion Service

Philippine National Red Cross Society: Sw.Frs. 30,000.—

for the purchase of an ambulance for the Emergency Service

Tunisian Red Crescent Society: Sw.Frs. 25,000.—

for the purchase of a vehicle for the Blood Transfusion Service

The Joint Commission also decided that Sw.Frs. 20,000.— be voted to the reserve as “guarantee” against fluctuations and that the unused balance of Sw.Frs. 4,008.31 will be added to the income available for the 57th Distribution.

In accordance with article 5b of the Regulations, the beneficiary National Societies are required to report in due course to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission on the use which has been made of the alloca-

tions received. The Joint Commission would like this report, accompanied by photographs if possible, to reach it at the latest by the end of the year during which the allocation is used. It furthermore reminds beneficiaries of article 5a of the Regulations which prohibits them assigning the grant for purposes other than those specified without the previous consent of the Commission.

In accordance with the Regulations, the 1977 income will be distributed in 1978. To facilitate National Societies to make applications in conformity with the Regulations, the Joint Commission has decided to send, as in the past year, model application forms to all National Societies.

The Joint Commission desires to remind National Societies that such requests must indicate the purposes for which the allocation will be used, in order for them to be considered; they must also, as far as possible, be accompanied by a plan of financing. Requests must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31st December 1977.

For the Joint Commission

League of Red Cross Societies

H. Beer
B. Petterson
K. Seevaratnam (Secretary)

*International Committee
of the Red Cross*

R. Gallopin (Chairman)
P. Gaillard
M. Martin

* * *

Empress Shôken Fund

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1976

(expressed in Swiss Francs)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS	
	Sw.Frs.		Sw.Frs.
Securities in portfolio		Capital	
Foreign bonds in Swiss		Balance carried forward	
Francs (market value:		from previous year	2,421,995.73
<i>Fr. 2,466,000.—</i>)	2,354,212.70		
Other foreign bonds			
(market value:		<i>Plus:</i>	
<i>Fr. 399,956.—</i>)	455,959.90	Special contributions	
	<u>2,810,172.60</u>	received in 1976 from the	
		Japanese Government,	
		the Japanese Red Cross	
		and Japanese doctors	168,187.40
			<u>2,590,183.13</u>
<i>Less:</i>		Provision for administrative	
Provision for loss on invest-		expenses:	
ment	70,316.95	Balance carried forward	10,666.25
Total of securities in port-	2,739,855.65	from the previous year	
folio at book value		Transfer from the income	
		statement as per the	9,125.30
		statutes	<u>19,791.55</u>
		<i>Less:</i>	
Debtor		Actual administrative ex-	
Account receivable, with-		penses for the year 1976	5,896.50
holding tax recoverable	1,411.85	Excess of income over ex-	
		penditure for the year	
		ended December 31, 1976	174,008.31
		<i>Total of own funds</i>	<u>2,778,086.49</u>
		Creditors	
Cash at Bank:		(Allocations to be with-	
Banque Hypothécaire du	115,956.83	drawn)	36,072.—
Canton de Genève		Current account with the	
M.M. Bordier & Cie,	3,410.40	League of Red Cross	
Geneva	119,367.23	Societies	46,476.24
	<u>2,860,634.73</u>		<u>82,548.24</u>
			<u>2,860,634.73</u>

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

SITUATION OF SECURITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1976

CATEGORY	NOMINAL VALUE Sw.Frs.	PURCHASE PRICE Sw.Frs.	MARKET VALUE Sw.Frs.	
6¾ % Sumitomo Metal Co. Ltd 1976/1981	200,000.—	200,000.—	205,000.—	102½ %
7¼ % Fujita Corp. Kogyo 1976/1981	200,000.—	200,000.—	207,000.—	103½ %
8½ % Koyo Seiko Co. Ltd 1975/1980	300,000.—	300,350.—	315,000.—	105 %
8¾ % Showa Denko Ltd 1975/1980	300,000.—	298,500.—	315,000.—	105 %
5½ % Japan 1968/1983	600,000.—	590,118.—	630,000.—	105 %
6¾ % Japan Dev. Bank 1970/1985	400,000.—	402,480.—	420,000.—	105 %
7 % Asian Dev. Bank 1971/1986	200,000.—	202,765.—	206,000.—	103 %
6½ % Worldbank, Washington 1971/1986	160,000.—	160,000.—	168,000.—	105 %
9 % Nippon Kokan Kabushiki Kaisha 1975/1982				
DM 250,000.— =	255,625.— at 102.25	269,437.—	269,684.—	105½ %
6 % Japan 1964/1979	DM 36,000.— =	36,810.— at 102.25	28,929.—	37,178.— 101 %
5½ % Japan 1980	US\$ 12,000.— =	29,160.— at 2.43	47,693.—	28,577.— 98 %
6 % Japan Dev. Bank 1978	US\$ 12,000.— =	29,160.— at 2.43	48,989.—	28,796.— 98¾ %
6 % Tokyo 1980	US\$ 15,000.— =	36,450.— at 2.43	60,912.—	35,721.— 98 %
	<u>2,747,205.—</u>	<u>2,810,173.—</u>	<u>2,865,956.—</u>	

NOTES:

- 1) As from 1.1.1969, the investments are accounted for at their purchase price.
- 2) Compared with the purchase price, the market value shows an appreciation of Sw.Frs. 55,783.— = 1.99 %.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1976

INCOME	
Interest income from bonds	178,472.05
Interest on bank deposits	4,033.85
	<u>182,505.90</u>
EXPENSES	
5% of total income above transferred to the Provision for administrative expenses (article 7 of the statutes of the Fund)	<u>9,125.30</u>
RESULT	
Excess of income over expenditure for 1976	<u>173,380.60</u>

STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATION

Balance carried forward from previous year	146,627.71
Less:	
Fifty-fifth distribution of income for the year 1975 to seven National Red Cross Societies, according to the decision taken by the Joint Commission (circular No 67 of April 1976)	<u>146,000.—</u>
Unused balance	627.71
Excess of income over expenditure for the year 1976	<u>173,380.60</u>
BALANCE AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1976 AS PER BALANCE SHEET	<u>174,008.31</u>

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA

The United Nations Conference in support of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia was held from 16 to 21 May at Maputo, capital of Mozambique. The ICRC delegate general for Africa, Mr. Frank Schmidt, and Mr. Michel Veuthey, ICRC deputy delegate to international organizations, attended the conference as observers. It was an opportunity to make contact and have useful talks with the representatives, present in Maputo, of various governments and with those of a number of United Nations specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and liberation movements.

They assured their interlocutors of the ICRC's determination to step up its assistance to the victims of the conflicts in southern Africa—civilians, prisoners, wounded and sick—and reminded them of the need for all parties to these conflicts to observe certain fundamental humanitarian rules.

Symposium on Torture

On 5 and 6 May 1977 an international symposium on torture was held at the Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva.

Among the twenty persons who took part were representatives of the United Nations (Human Rights Division) and of various non-governmental bodies (Amnesty International, Arab Lawyers Association, ICRC, International Commission of Jurists, World Council of Churches, World Jewish Congress, Society of Friends, SODEPAX, etc.). Four permanent missions (Canada, Ghana, Italy, USA) sent observers to the symposium.

The themes discussed were: expansion of the role of non-governmental bodies and of their co-operation; governments' role in combating torture; multilateral or model convention prohibiting torture; expansion of role of inter-governmental bodies; and possibility of setting up an advisory group.

The main practical result of the views exchanged during the two days of the symposium was the decision to set up a liaison group between non-governmental bodies to co-ordinate action against torture.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TERRITORIAL ASYLUM ¹

The United Nations Conference on Territorial Asylum was held in Geneva from 10 January to 4 February 1977, with delegations from 92 countries participating. It did not complete its work and recommended the General Assembly consider at its 32nd session the question of convening at an appropriate time a further session of the Conference.

By the end of the Conference on 4 February 1977, only five articles had been adopted by the Commission of the Whole; and of these, only one, article I (Grant of asylum) had been fully considered by the Drafting Committee. The remaining four articles, initially adopted by the Committee of the Whole and referred to the Drafting Committee were:

Article II defining the persons in respect of whom the Convention is to apply;

Two articles, one defining standards of conduct of asylees in countries of asylum, and the other extending the benefits of the Convention to family members of an asylee;

Article III (*non-refoulement* and non-rejection at the frontier).

¹ Extract from the bulletin of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, No. 1, February 1977.

MISCELLANEOUS

Normally, after consideration by the Drafting Committee, articles must be reviewed again by the Committee of the Whole and then put before the Plenary where a two-thirds majority vote is needed for approval.

At the closing session, the President of the Conference said :

"...The Conference now ending gave rise to the most far-reaching exchange of views on asylum that has taken place at the governmental level in recent years...

What is clear from the Conference is that this area of international law has become a focus of widespread and keen interest; everywhere the relations between the claim of the individual seeking asylum to be granted refuge and the sovereign prerogatives of the State—the issue which was at the heart of so much of the discussion—is being assessed and discussed... The value of having so many States from all regions and groups of the international community come together to consider and define their attitudes in this important matter has been substantial.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ADOPTED 21 JUNE 1973

ART. 1. — *International Committee of the Red Cross*

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

2. It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

ART. 2. — *Legal Status*

As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — *Headquarters and Emblem*

The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be *Inter arma caritas*.

ART. 4. — *Role*

1. The special role of the ICRC shall be :

- (a) to maintain the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross ;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition ;
- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term " National Red Cross Societies " includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife ; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to ensure the operation of the Central Information Agencies provided for in the Geneva Conventions ;
- (f) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (g) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension ;
- (h) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

2. The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — *Membership of the ICRC*

The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. It shall comprise fifteen to twenty-five members.

ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, Puli Artan, *Kabul*.
- PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadave, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA (Democratic and People's Republic) — Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, 1089 *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122 Flinders Street, *Melbourne 3000*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna 4*.
- BAHAMAS — Bahamas Red Cross Society, P.O. Box N 91, *Nassau*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, 34, Bangabandhu Avenue, *Dacca 2*.
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN — Red Cross of Benin, B.P. 1, *Porto Novo*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, 1050 *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515, *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. Biruzov, *Sofia 27*.
- BURMA (Socialist Republic of the Union of) — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1H6*.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE — Central African Red Cross, B.P. 1428, *Bangui*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65, Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE — Croix-Rouge Congolaise, place de la Paix, *Brazzaville*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 14, Avenida 8, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, 118 04 *Prague 1*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, DK-1741 *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Apartado Postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia, 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 34 rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, *San Salvador, C.A.*
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Ras Desta Damtew Avenue, *Addis Ababa*.
- FIJI — Fiji Red Cross Society, 193 Rodwell Road. P.O. Box 569, *Suva*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 168, 00141 *Helsinki 14/15*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris CEDEX 08*.
- GAMBIA — The Gambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 472, *Banjul*.
- GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaizerstrasse 2, DDR 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, National Headquarters, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3a Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Ciudad de Guatemala*.
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, 1a Avenida entre 3a y 4a Calles, N° 313, *Comayagüela, D.C.*
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János utca 31, *Budapest V*. Mail Add.: 1367 *Budapest 5*, Pf. 249.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Nóatúni 21, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 110001*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Jalan Abdul Muis 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Av. Villa, Carrefour Takhté Djamchid, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 29-12 Shiba 5-chome, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 108*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St. John's Gate, P.O. Box 40712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA, REPUBLIC OF — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1350, *Kuwait*.
- LAO PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC** — Libyan Arab Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 1806, *Luxembourg*.
- MALAGASY REPUBLIC** — Red Cross Society of the Malagasy Republic, rue Clémenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Antananarivo*.
- MALAWI** — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, *Blantyre* (P.O. Box 30080, Chichiri, *Blantyre* 3).
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Crescent Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur* 08-03.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, *Bamako*.
- MAURITANIA** — Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, B.P. 344, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, *Nouakchott*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *México* 10 D.F.
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tahachal, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross House, 14 Hill Street, *Wellington* 1. (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*.)
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, D.N. Apartado 3279, *Managua*.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Aketa Close, off St. Gregory Rd., P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*. Mail Add.: *Postboks 7034 H-Oslo* 3.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters, 169, Sarwar Road, *Rawalpindi*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, Brasil 216, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Jirón Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila* 2801.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon* 3.
- ROMANIA** — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bd Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6A Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SINGAPORE** — Singapore Red Cross Society, 15 Penang Lane, *Singapore* 9.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg* 2000.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid* 10.
- SRI LANKA** — Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo* 7.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Fack, S-104 40 *Stockholm* 14.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51 rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, Wrightson Road West, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*, Trinidad, West Indies.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED KINGDOM** — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, SW1X 7EJ*.
- UPPER VOLTA** — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington, D.C.* 20006.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, I. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow* 117036.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF** — Red Cross of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triêu, *Hanoi*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE** — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, 2837 Brentwood Drive, *Lusaka*.